

CLAIMS

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is as follows:

- 1 1. A messaging system comprising:
2 an interactive system for production and interchange of messages by
3 users over a network;
4 a topic separator receiving user messages and separating messages
5 according to different topics; and
6 a user interface, coupled to said topic separator, for representing in a
7 distinct way parts of messages that were separated by said topic separator.
- 1 2. The messaging system as in claim 1, further comprising a time synchronizer
2 for time stamping messages, the topic separator being responsive to said time
3 synchronizer to determine relationships between messages.
- 1 3. The messaging system as in claim 1, wherein said user interface displays
2 messages in windows according to topic.
- 1 4. The messaging system as in claim 1, wherein said user interface displays
2 messages in different colors according to topic.
- 1 5. The messaging system as in claim 1, further comprising a security system to
2 verify a user's identity.
- 1 6. The messaging system as in claim 5, wherein said security system includes a
2 database of questions from which random questions are posed to a user and

3 whereby verification of validity of answers to posed questions is done by users
4 of the system.

1 7. The messaging system as in claim 5, wherein said security system includes a
2 biometric module for verification of a user's identify.

1 8. A method of conducting a messaging session at a user's computer between
2 two or more users over a network comprising the steps of:
3 receiving a message over the network from a user;
4 identifying a topic of the received message;
5 determining if the topic of the received message has changed from a
6 previous message;
7 determining if a changed topic is a new topic; and
8 if a new topic, opening a new window to display the received message.

1 9. The method of conducting a messaging session recited in claim 8, wherein if
2 the topic of a received message has not changed, further comprising the step of
3 displaying the received message in a currently opened window.

1 10. The method of conducting a messaging session recited in claim 8, wherein
2 if a changed topic is not a new topic, further comprising the step of displaying
3 the received message in a previously opened window.

1 11. The method of conducting a messaging session recited in claim 8, further
2 comprising the step of identifying a time of a received message, the steps of
3 determining if the topic of the received message has changed from a previous
4 message and determining if a changed topic is a new topic using the time of the
5 received message to determine whether the topic has changed or is a new

6 topic.

1 12. The method of conducting a messaging session recited in claim 8, further
2 comprising the step of checking a user's identity.

1 13. The method of conducting a messaging session recited in claim 12, wherein
2 the step checking a user's identity comprises the steps of asking the user
3 random questions and evaluating the user's answers.

1 14. The method of conducting a messaging session recited in claim 13, wherein
2 the step of evaluating the user's answers is performed by another user.

1 15. The method of conducting a messaging session recited in claim 12, wherein
2 the step of checking a user's identity is performed using biometrics.